



Martin O'Malley, *Governor*
Anthony G. Brown, *Lt. Governor*
Malcolm D. Woolf, *Director*

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS # 4
Request for Proposals High Resolution Geophysical Resource Survey
For the Maryland Energy Administration
PROJECT NO. DEXR240005
September 7, 2012

Ladies/Gentlemen:

This list of Questions and Answers #4, Question #25, is being issued to clarify certain information contained in the above named RFP. The statements and interpretations of Contract requirements which are stated in the following questions of potential Offerors, are not binding on the State, unless the State expressly amends the RFP. Nothing in the State's responses to these questions is to be construed as agreement to or acceptance by the State of any statement or interpretation on the part of the vendor asking the question as to what the contract does or does not require. However, if from a particular vendor question(s) it seems as if the vendor has misinterpreted RFP wording referenced in a question, the State's response typically will point out the misinterpretation as part of the answer to the question.

25. **QUESTION:** In MEA's "QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS # 2 Request for Proposals High Resolution Geophysical Resource Survey For the Maryland Energy Administration PROJECT NO. DEXR240005" on August 24, 2012, the answer to Question #12 states:

"MEA has modified the requirement to standardize multi-beam bathymetry and side-scan sonar requirements according to standards identified by the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and available at <http://www.nauticalcharts.noaa.gov/hsd/specs/specs.htm>. Please, see Addendum #2."

In Addendum #2, the RFP language was changed to say:

"Use a multi-beam bathymetry system in all areas according to standards specified by the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and published on its website at: <http://www.nauticalcharts.noaa.gov/hsd/specs/specs.htm>".

The answer to Question #12 indicates that we must apply the standards identified by the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to both the multibeam and side-scan sonar surveys, yet the change to Addendum #2 only references the multibeam. Are the offerors required to follow the standards identified by the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and available at: <http://www.nauticalcharts.noaa.gov/hsd/specs/specs.htm> for the side-scan sonar survey also?

If the answer is "Yes", then Section 6.2.4 of the NOAA Guidelines states that "*The maximum allowable range scale for any towed side scan sonar is 100 m.*" This requirement will significantly increase the data

collection line mileage requirements for the MEA WEA survey, and as a result, will significantly increase the proposed cost.

STATE RESPONSE: NOAA standards should be applied to all side-scan sonar and multi-beam bathymetry survey operations *except where they differ from enumerated RFP requirements*. MEA has modified the RFP to clarify that NOAA standards should be applied to side-scan sonar operations except where those standards differ from the requirements in Section 2.2.2. No deviation from the 150m line spacing is necessary for side-scan sonar or any other survey activity under this RFP.

Should you require clarification of the information provided, please contact me via e-mail or (410) 260-7752 as soon as possible.

Date Issued: September 7, 2012

By:



Maria Ulrich
Procurement Officer